

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 DEAE-00
CIAE-00 INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 CTME-00 SNM-05
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R 171649Z JAN 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4829
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L GENEVA 00665

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, UN, LA
SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS RELATED TO UNFDAC/LAOS AGREEMENT

REF: (A) 77 VIENTIANE 1651; (B) 77 GENEVA 11194 (NOTAL)

1. MISSION OFFICER DISCUSSED, IN SEPARATE CONVERSATIONS, DEVELOPMENTS UNDER UNFDAC/LAOS AGREEMENT WITH UNFDAC ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR WELLMAN AND MR. SAENGER, DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS, DIVISION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS.

2. BOTH WERE AWARE, AS REPORTED REF A, THAT JOINT UN MISSION HAD NOT BEEN ABLE TO VISIT POTENTIAL SITES FOR CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECTS. THEY STATED THAT LPDR HAD INFORMED THE MISSION MEMBERS THAT THE SECURITY SITUATION IN THE POTENTIAL SITE AREAS WAS NOT SUFFICIENTLY STABLE TO PERMIT VISITS AT THAT TIME.

2. WHEN ASKED HIS VIEWS ON WHETHER THE "SECURITY SITUATION" MIGHT BE A PRETEXT TO RELIEVE THE LPDR OF PERFORMANCE OF HALF THE AGREEMENT, WELLMAN REPLIED THAT SINCE AGREE-
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MENT WAS NOT YET TWO MONTHS OLD, IT WAS TOO EARLY TO GIVE A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO THIS QUESTION. HE REITERATED THE UNFDAC VIEW THAT BOTH PARTS OF THE AGREEMENT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT IN TANDEM AND VOICED HIS EXPECTATION THAT THE DIVISION WOULD PRESS THE TWO PROJECTS SIMULTANEOUSLY. HE PERCEIVED THE NEED FOR CONTINUING DIALOGUE WITH THE LPDR CONCERNING THE UNFDAC POSITION AND STATED THAT HE HAD

URGED MR. SAENGER TO VISIT VIENTIANE FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. IN RESPONSE TO THE SAME QUESTION, MR. SAENGER STATED THAT THE LPDR'S FAILURE TO PERMIT SITE VISITS FOR SECURITY REASONS DID AT FIRST RAISE DOUBTS CONCERNING ITS INTENTIONS. HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT AN ARTICLE IN THE 10 JANUARY 1978 ISSUE OF LE MONDE, WHICH REPORTS MILITARY COMBAT IN AREAS OF POTENTIAL SITES, GAVE A COLOR OF LEGITIMACY TO THE LPDR POSITION. HE ALSO THOUGHT IT WAS TOO EARLY UNDER THESE CONDITIONS TO RAISE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THE GOOD FAITH OF THE LPDR. HE EXPRESSED THE HOPE THAT AN APPROPRIATE SITE FOR A CROP SUBSTITUTION PROJECT COULD STILL BE IDENTIFIED. SORENSON

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